

Abstract 313**TITLE:** Advancing Integration of HIV and STD Prevention in New York State (NYS)**AUTHORS:** Klein, S.J.; Coury-Doniger, P.A.; Carascal, A.F.; Cotroneo, R.A.

ISSUE: With over 125,000 individuals diagnosed with AIDS, NYS reflects 18% of U. S. cases. NYS has higher AIDS case and incidence rates than any other state. Fifteen years into the epidemic, primary and secondary prevention for HIV/AIDS are compelling public health priorities in NYS. It is now established that presence of STDs facilitates both acquisition and transmission of HIV. Efforts to integrate HIV and STD prevention within NYS's HIV/AIDS prevention and service delivery network, public health infrastructure and health care system are on going. Structural interventions and strategic partnerships can advance prevention goals.

SETTING: Public and private HIV/AIDS and STD prevention and medical/health care providers across NYS.

PROJECT: Continued development of multiple structural and programmatic interventions to advance integration of HIV and STD prevention in NYS takes place through a variety of pathways and partnerships. The AIDS Institute's Division of HIV Prevention and Office of the Medical Director work closely with the Rochester Center for STD/HIV Risk Reduction Training, public health STD staff at both state and local levels, and community partners such as the HIV Prevention Planning Group to advance primary and secondary prevention.

RESULTS: Collaborative initiatives have been designed to increase knowledge and awareness of the inter-relationship between HIV and STDs on the part of consumers and providers. Specific activities are designed to promote access to STD diagnosis and treatment for those at risk of HIV/AIDS, provide fiscal incentives for HIV testing in public STD clinics, provide clinical guidelines reflecting HIV and STD issues to care providers, assess new and emerging test technologies which can facilitate integration, train HIV test counselors and STD staff, examine structural obstacles and barriers and advance both primary and secondary prevention.

LESSONS LEARNED: While integration of HIV and STD prevention is a national goal, public health practice as well as HIV/AIDS and STD prevention takes place locally. Each jurisdiction offers unique challenges and opportunities to advance integration of HIV and STD. Maximizing respective roles of various partners can result in meaningful and substantive environmental changes, promote sound public health and clinical practice, and mobilize community representatives concerned about HIV/AIDS around STD issues. An open dialogue and multidirectional flow of information can result in maximizing resources and development of promising and innovative prevention strategies.

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